

# INFOCUS



Fall Issue  
November 2010



416.746.5772

[www.jcassoc.org](http://www.jcassoc.org)

[info@jcassoc.org](mailto:info@jcassoc.org)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to another issue of our quarterly Infocus Magazine. As we approach the end of the calendar year, we leave behind us a very hectic few months. I am very proud of the contributions that the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) continues to make in our community. We had yet another successful scholarship dinner in September. We handed out over \$25,000 in scholarships and bursaries to very deserving recipients. Each year we continue to add new donors that are committed to investing in the future of these young men and women. Our seniors' brunch was a sold out event with artists the likes of Kay Morris and others donating their time to pay homage to those that have paved the way for us.

On October 15th we hosted the Toronto Mayoral Debate, one week before that very crucial election was held. We afforded the close to 300 members of the community in attendance to engage the main candidates, Joe Pantalone, George Smitherman, Rob Ford, as well as give exposure to the young black candidate Rocco Achampong, on the many pressing issues. Our hope is that all who attended were able to gain sufficient information to make an informed decision.

The JCA heeded the call for financial assistance from the government of Jamaica in aid of the flood victims of Tropical Storm Nicole and by extension Tropical Storm Tomas. Because this was not labelled a hurricane, Jamaica was not entitled to any assistance from the normal international channels. The fundraising concert held on November 12th was truly a collaborative effort. The generous spirit of our people never ceases to amaze me. The artists that donated their time, the many businesses that contributed goods to be sold and the community media outlets that rallied in support of this cause was truly gratifying. As we close out this year, we are hard at work in preparation for the New Year. I encourage you to bring out the family to our annual Children's Christmas party, Sunday, December 5th and ring in the New Year with us at the Centre on December 31st. Please check out our website to keep abreast of the many activities at the JCA.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff I wish you all the best for the holiday season and a very prosperous New Year.



Warmest Regards,

Audrey Campbell

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

In this period we note demand for the services and programs of the JCA have remained constant and have increased in some areas over the last Quarter. Individuals and families have reached out to us as they experience situations of loneliness, desperation, relationship challenges, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse and violence notably against women. They obviously point to a community in crisis. The JCA has responded to these needs by providing free counselling and referrals to the community. We have now gone a step further by offering itinerant settlement services in select locations external to our office at 995 Arrow Road.

### PROGRAMS

Our Opportunity Plus program transitioned into the Employment Services Program (ES) on August 1, 2010. The Opportunity Plus program was based on the Job Finding Club model and served clients 45 years and over. The new ES program serves all clients that requests the service and has five components. The components are client service planning and coordination, resource and information, job search, job matching and placement and job/training retention. Our staff has been trained on the new ministry database and on resource documentation and procedures. The exterior signage to reflect the ministry requirements has also been changed. We tendered for contractors to do the renovation of the Employment Program space within the Ministry allotted budget. Davdar Contracting was selected. The renovation commenced the first week of November and is expected to be completed in 4 to 6 weeks.

In early November, the Violence Against Women program planned and conducted a joint interactive workshop with the Redwood Shelter for abused women, held at the JCA. (why don't we have a date for this event?)

Over the past three months the seniors had guest speakers presenting on crime prevention, fire safety and cognitive behavior therapy. Judy Sgro also visited the seniors on September 14th to discuss CPP, OAS and other topics. A nutritionist and dietician from the Toronto Public Health took the seniors on a Supermarket tour of Sheriff's No



Respectfully,

Michael A Foster  
Chief Executive Officer

Frills. The tour included tips on reading labels and making choices while shopping. The seniors' went on a four day Thanksgiving trip to Boston, Massachusetts. They described the trip as fun and educational as it included a tour of Harvard University and Boston, a duck tour and a Brazilian feast. The seniors joined other seniors groups in the area on a tour of Black Creek as a part of The Toronto Library's Black Creek Living History Project. A team of oral hygienists visited the seniors on October 19th to provide free dental screening to the seniors and those with dentures were given a free cleaning. The women in the group participated in an art project facilitated by Thrive, a multicultural women's coalition against violence and oppression. On November 9th the seniors attended an event marking the 25th Anniversary of the Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens Organization (OCSCO) at which our very own Ms. Amy Nelson received the Dan Benedict Award.

### COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

The JCA and CUPE Local 4772.01 are still actively negotiating the collective agreement. The meetings and exchanges remain cordial.

*The JCA is committed in supporting the community in whatever way we can. I wish staff, Board, members, volunteers, clients, customers, donors, funders, supporters and friends of the JCA a pleasant holiday season and all the best for 2011.*



## Membership Services Committee

### SENIORS APPRECIATION

The Annual Seniors Appreciation Brunch was attended by approximately 160 seniors and guests. Thanks to the committee members and the many volunteers and performers who did an outstanding job making it a wonderful event full of Island sounds for our seniors and guests.

We would also like to thank our special guest speaker Dr. Lola Ramocan, Ms. Amy Nelson, Audrey Campbell, MC Nadine Williams, Rosa The Grandmaster, performers Kay Morris and Yanique Williams; Committee members: Norma Bredwood, Raphealieta Walker, Sonia Brown, Hurbert Green, Pansy Stewart, Enid Gough, Esmay Murphy, Dean Parker, Shirley McKoy, Eulin Lewinson, Sonya Morris, Glenford Gordon, Judith Mitchell and Nadine McLean.

#### To the following sponsors and donors:

Beryl Nugent, Dr. Mavis Burke & Norma Fernandes, Dr. Johl Melbourne, Norma Brown-Larro, Mary Anne Chambers, Lipton Lundi, Megan Sandiford, Jermaine Granville - Western Union, Patrick Griffiths - Rochelle Clear Water, Courtney Grant - Caribbean Queen Jerk Drum

### Bereavements and Get Well

We extend our sincere sympathies to bereaved families of our members who lost love ones since the start of the year and our good wishes and prayers to those who are recovering from illnesses. Committee meetings are held on the 1st. Friday of each month and all are welcome.

The membership recruiting is ongoing; also please remember to renew your membership. Letters were mailed out recently to update your membership. Please remember that all dues expire on March 31, 2011 so please keep those renewals coming in. If you did not receive a notice, please contact our office or send us an email. The Membership Committee meetings are held on the 1st. Friday of each month and all are welcome.

### Quarterly Membership Meeting

The November Quarterly Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 28, 2010 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm and you are all invited to participate. We would like to hear from you and look forward to seeing you.

**We could not have done it without you.**

**THANK YOU!**

### REMINDER!

Our Children's Christmas Party and Concert will take place on Sunday, December 5, 2010 from 2:00 – 5:00pm. Register your child before the deadline. If you would like to volunteer on any committee of the JCA, please contact the Membership Committee at 416-746-5772 ext 249.

### PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

If you are planning to move or moved recently, please provide us with your updated contact information by completing the attached form and mail or fax it to 416-746-7035 or email me directly at [membership@jcaontario.org](mailto:membership@jcaontario.org). This will help us to keep in touch with you as well as to reduce returned mail and the associated cost.

## Education and Cultural Committee

### Scholarships Recipients Who Do it All

The 8th Annual JCA Scholarship Awards Dinner and Dance was held at the Jamaican Canadian Centre Saturday, September 18, 2010. A grand total of \$25,540 in scholarships and bursaries were awarded to students of Caribbean and African heritage. The Jamaican Canadian Association, York Regional Police, Jamaican National Building Society, Victoria Mutual Building Society, Humber College Institute of Technology and former provincial cabinet minister Mary Anne Chambers were just some of the 20 donors who made it possible for students to receive financial aid for their post-secondary studies at various Ontario Colleges and Universities.

The theme this year was "This is our Moment" and when you read the profiles of the recipients, you begin to understand why it was their moment. The success of the awards was in the



recipients chosen. Many of them were students who were taking on many responsibilities other than their academic studies. They ranged from a single parent aspiring to become a lawyer while maintaining her standing on the dean's list to a student who worked 2 jobs to support his family while volunteering at his local church. The recipients clearly understand the importance of giving back to their community and to those involved in their path to success. When they received their award on stage, they, in return, presented to their respective donor, a gift for the ir

acknowledgement of their hard work and commitment to academics and community involvement. The evening also involved some entertainment which included a young violinist, Alana Etsy who impressed the crowd with her soothing performance. A dinner catered by A & G catering that was delightful for our guests. The guest speaker for the event, Marcie Ien, Early Edition Host and News Anchor, Canada AM spoke about the power of "No" in her path to success. This was a powerful message for all the recipients as they chart their journey to their career goals. The night ended with some dancing while music was provided by Logie International. The event organized by the Scholarship Committee was a success in the eyes of the students who were able to make this their moment.

**Westmore Smith**

**Chair, Education and Cultural Committee**



## Women's Committee

### MARVA WISDOM

When she was 14, Marva Wisdom, the eldest of five children, and her family immigrated to Canada from Jamaica.

As the founder and Principal of Wisdom Consulting, Marva shares her extensive personal and professional experience in the design, delivery and facilitation of workshops for conferences, seminars and community forums (in the not-for-profit and private sectors). An inspirational professional speaker, she values the 'return on involvement', of a diverse and inclusive community and country.

Motivated by the phrase, "we get the leadership we deserve", Marva has set out to broaden and deepen our engagement within community and country. Through seminars, motivational speeches, presentations and research, Marva conveys the importance of an inclusive and engaged populous and its impact on public and private sector leadership.

Adding to her broad knowledge on effective advocacy and engagement is her past understanding of political environments. She was appointed by Prime Minister Paul Martin as chair and co-chair of the 2004 and 2006 Election Platform Committee and served a 3-year term as national policy committee chair.

Marva has provided exceptional service to several organizations including but not limited to:

- Aboriginal Human Resources Council
- County of Wellington
- Probus Clubs (Guelph and Cambridge)
- Musagetes Foundation
- Royal Bank of Canada (Guelph/Halton Management Group)
- ON Government Ministries: Aboriginal Affairs; Education; Training Colleges & Universities (Urban Aboriginal Task Force Project)
- Jamaican Canadian Association
- Canadian Centre for Diversity
- University of Guelph

An avid volunteer, Marva contributes further as:

- Chair: United Way 2010 Campaign
- Founding Chair: Guelph Chapter – Institute for Canadian Citizenship
- Vice Chair: Canadian Centre for Diversity
- Honourary Chair: YWCA Women of Distinction Alumnae
- Trustee: Macdonald Stewart Art Centre
- Director: Rotary Club, YMCA-YWCA
- Committee Member: Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (ON Region)

Marva's belief in strengthening the fabric of society through service has garnered formal recognition, including the YWCA's 2002 Women of Distinction Award for Voluntary Community and Humanitarian Service and CTV's (CKCO), Hero-of-the-Week.

She holds a Masters of Arts (Leadership) from the University of Guelph.

**Charmaine Sewell,**  
Women's Committee Chair



## EVENTS

### JCA Open House

The JCA Open House was held on September 21, 2010. The Children's Aid Society (CAS) and the Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) were our partners at the event. The event showcased JCA programs and services. This was an important opportunity for JCA members, the families we work with and members of the local community to find out more about JCA and community services that are available. We also had participation from other community organizations that also showcased their programs and services. The highlights of the event were presentation of our new website ([jcaontario.org](http://jcaontario.org)), displays of JCA programs and services and presentations made by CAS and CCAS speakers.



### United Way Campaign Launch

On September 8, 2010 the JCA staff attended the United Way Toronto campaign launch that was held in the TD Centre Courtyard at 66 Wellington Street. The event was well attended. Our staff has been contributing via payroll on a regular basis to the campaign and we have also hosted a successful United Way fundraising barbeque in the summer. Thanks to our YOW Coordinator, Mary Mark, for all her help in organizing the JCA events and contributions.



We currently have advertising spots available on the website as well as for In Focus, should you or anyone you know is interested, please contact [publicrelations@jcaontario.org](mailto:publicrelations@jcaontario.org)



## EVENTS

### JCA hosts its first Mayoral Debate!

Wednesday October 13, 2010 Hall 1 at JCA was full to capacity as many came out to have their voices heard and more importantly to hear the candidate's speeches in order to make informed choices.

In attendance were Joe Pantalone, George Smitherman, Rocco Achampong and Rob Ford who was a late arrival but one was also anxiously awaited by the media and supporters. Rocco Rossi who was also invited was a no show, it would be noted later that night that he had dropped out of the race According to Rossi, it was clear that they were only two contenders in the race, George Smitherman and Rob Ford, so he did the most noble thing and stepped out.

The welcome and introductions were done by Aston Hall and the moderator for the debate was Philip Mascoll. The first candidate to speak was Joe Pantalone, followed by George Smitherman and then Rocco Rossi. Rob Ford presented his speech later in the evening upon his arrival. Many questions were raised from the audience and they ranged from concerns about education to services and the speakers took turns in providing responses for these queries.

The event hosted by the Public Policy Committee of the JCA was well received.

Yolan Williams

Public Relations Chair  
Jamaican Canadian Association



Joe Pantalone



Rob Ford



George Smitherman (Left) and Rocco Achampong (Right)



Attendees raising pressing issues

## EVENTS

### JCA and Friends fundraise for Jamaica

In light of the recent Tropical Storm Nicole which resulted in severe flooding, loss of life and cases of homelessness and displacement. The Jamaican Canadian Association under the distinguished patronage of the Consul General to Toronto, Mr. Seth George Ramocan joined forces to address the needs. It is clear our island home and fellow Jamaicans need us! All were encouraged to support the cause, as our well known Jamaican proverb encourages, "one, one cocoa full basket".



The event featured comedians: Marcia Brown, Naggo Morris and Letna Allen-Rowe and some of Toronto's finest entertainers including: D'jango, Sonia Collymore-Dawes, Kay Morris (Queen Nana-Sika), King Ujah, Lady Tremor, Semojrah Naki, Princess Anla, Mountain Edge Band, Apache Scratchy, Junior Whisper, Jay Davis, Jakki James, KC, Comfort and Dizzy, backed Live By EOP - Essence of Praise.

Music was provided by Soul 2 Soul, Massey, Lethal Star, Volume One, and DJ Funky.

Mc's: Sir B (CHRY), Allan Jones (CKLN), Super V (CJIQ) and Scabba G (CIUT).

Contribution at the Door was \$10.00.



The event was a success as hundreds of Jamaicans and supporters came out to show support for this cause. The night saw the return to stage of some musical veterans as well as new up and coming entertainers in Toronto. Throughout the event it was clear that Jamaica and her well-wishers which include other Caribbean islanders can emerge from crisis with united efforts. We all wish our island home the best recovery as we seek to be good stewards of the funds donated.



## Community Corner

### *The Third Annual Back 2 School Extravaganza!*

The back to school event was again a success. It was organized by the JCA in partnership with other community organizations. This year we provided 500 youth with back packs and school supplies for the 2010-2011 school year. A major partner in this initiative is the 31 Division, who with the help of the JCA decided to extend the initiative to other divisions. We are grateful to the sponsors that provided the back packs and school supplies.

### **Ms. Amy Nelson Receives OCSCO's 2010 CAW Dan Benedict Award**

On November 9, 2010, the Caribbean Canadian Seniors Club attended the Ontario Society (Coalition) of Senior Citizens' Organization's (OCSCO) 25th anniversary event. The first guest speaker at the event, Ms. Bea Levis, discussed OCSCO's journey over the past 25 years followed by Senator Sharon Carstairs who spoke about issues of aging in Canadian society. The audience was later captivated by the singing of author, singer and songwriter, Dan Hill. The event also included a session of laughing yoga led by Lalita Sharma.

Dr. Lola Ramocan, wife of the Jamaican Consul General to Canada, joined the Caribbean Canadian Seniors Club to witness this occasion and show our love and support for their Chair, Ms. Amy Nelson. The Jamaican Canadian Association would like to extend our congratulations to Ms. Nelson for a recognition well deserved.

The highlight of the event was Ms. Amy Nelson receiving the 2010 CAW Dan Benedict Award. Ms. Nelson, a former vice president of OCSCO, was awarded for her volunteer work over the past 40 years. In her acceptance speech Ms. Nelson shared success stories of her work. She also encouraged everyone to get involved in volunteering as there are underprivileged people worldwide in need of assistance.



## INDIVIDUAL PROFILE

### SUMMER STUDENT - WAYNE BRIDGE

Hello my name is Wayne Bridge and I am currently a student at the University of Waterloo. I am in my second year pursuing studies in the fields of Business, Economics, and Political Science. I am also a varsity athlete for the Waterloo Warriors Men's Basketball Team where we made it to the semi finals of the OUA West division. My interests include basketball, which gives me the opportunity to play against competition from all over the country. And it has allowed me to travel to many places I otherwise would not have the fortune of visiting. Some of my other interests are travelling, track & field, and music.

After spending some time at the JCA I found it to be a rewarding and humbling experience to know that there are people out there trying to make a difference in the community. I appreciate all that JCA and the staff has done in my development and I have grown significantly. As I look to the future I would like to complete my education, travel the world and continue to stay involved with the community.

This past summer during my job search, I was fortunate to come across a great opportunity working for the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA). As a part of the JCA team I got the chance to experience how the JCA gets involved with people in the community. I was able to take part first hand in some of the many services they provide that improve the lives of people every day. During my term I was placed on the committee for organizing a fundraiser barbeque for the United Way. This project presented challenging and new opportunities for me. While on the committee I was responsible for: acquiring sponsorship, donations, and advertisement. On this committee I was able to work alongside many of the amazing and selfless people who make JCA a success.

### 2011 DATES

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SUNDAY MAY 29

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - SUNDAY AUGUST 28

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27





Jamaican Canadian Association  
Public Relations Committee

# 1<sup>st</sup> MEDIA LAUNCH

TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 23, 2010

@  
7PM

JCA MEMBERS LOUNGE



## Come Have Fun

At The Jamaican Canadian Association  
Bring Your Kids Ages 0-12



Activities:

For a Fun Fill Day of Fun and Entertainment  
December 5th, 2010

2:00PM To 5:00PM

Registration Available

At

The Jamaican Canadian Association

Registration Donation  
\$6.00

Arts and Crafts

Face Painting



Story Teller

Talent Show

Game Room



THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

P R E S E N T S

2011

# NEW YEARS EVE Dance

FRIDAY DECEMBER 31, 2010

FEATURING **DI FUNKY**

ADMISSION: \$25 ADVANCE \$30 AT THE DOOR

THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN CENTER

995 ARROW ROAD

89 2010 216-619-56425

WWW.JCAONTARIO.ORG TEL: 416 746 5772

## JAMAICAN CORNER

*"Gretel tell Pamsie sey pone different from pudding, a true?"*

Is pudding different from pone? Send us your feedback ([publicrelations@jcaontario.org](mailto:publicrelations@jcaontario.org))  
and the best response will be printed in the next issue of In Focus!